

REMARKS

Claim 38 is amended. Claims 51-52 are cancelled. New claims 53-59 are added.

Claims 38-50 and 53-59 are pending in the application.

Claims 38-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various cited combinations of Hunt, U.S. Patent No. 5,836,506; Dunlop, U.S. Patent No. 5,590,383; and Hunt, U.S. Patent No. 6,073,830. In accordance with MPEP § 2143, a proper obviousness rejection has the following three requirements: 1) there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify or combine reference teachings; 2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and 3) the combined references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Pending claims 38-50 are allowable over Hunt '506, Hunt '830, and Dunlop for at least the reason that the references, individually or as combined fail to disclose or suggest each and every limitation in any of these claims.

Applicant's amendment to claim 38 adds a recitation that the target material and backing plate material each consist of aluminum. As amended, claim 38 recites a target consisting of high purity aluminum diffusion bonded to a backing plate consisting of aluminum wherein a predominant portion of the grains in the target material are less than 100 microns in maximum dimension.

Not one of the Examiner's cited references suggests or discloses a target consisting of high purity aluminum diffusion bonded to a backing plate consisting of high purity aluminum. Accordingly, it is inconceivable that the references could suggest or disclose the recited target consisting of high purity aluminum having a predominant portion of the grains which are less than 100 microns in maximum dimension, diffusion bonded to a backing plate consisting of aluminum. For at least this reason, independent claim 38 is

allowable over these cited combinations of Dunlop, Hunt '506 and Hunt '830.

Dependent claims 51 and 52 are cancelled, dependent claims 39-50 are allowable over the cited combinations of Hunt '830, Hunt '506 and Dunlop for at least the reason that they depend from allowable base claim 38.

Claims 53-59 do not add "new matter" to the application since each is fully supported by the specification as originally filed. Claims 53-59 are supported by the specification at, for example, Fig. 4; page 7, line 19 through page 8, line 23; and page 13, lines 12-23.

For the reasons discussed above claims 38-50 are allowable and claims 53-59 are believed allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of pending claims 38-50 and 53-59 in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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